## **●** AT&T

## PBX SECURITY: IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

## **PBX (Private Branch Exchange) Security**

A PBX is a private switch that serves extensions in a business and provides access to the public switched network. If the PBX system is not maintained and secured, it can be an easy target for those with a mind to commit toll fraud.

## **PBX and Voice Mail Security Tips**

- ☐ Run periodic security audits to check for loopholes in the PBX (have PBX vendor do this if possible).
- □ Disable DISA (*Direct Inward System Access*) if possible. If not possible, use maximum number of digits for DISA code.
- ☐ Eliminate remote access to your PBX and disable access system. Have authorized personnel use calling cards instead, if practical.
- □ Do not allow unlimited attempts to enter system. Program PBX to terminate access after third invalid attempt.
- ☐ Shred directories or anything listing PBX access numbers.
- ☐ Never divulge system information unless you know to whom you are giving it.
- ☐ Secure remote maintenance port and use call back modem or alphanumeric passwords.
- ☐ Tailor access to the PBX to conform to business needs.
- □ Eliminate trunk to trunk transfer capability.
- Restrict 0+, 0- and 10-10-XXX dialing out of PBX.
- □ Restrict all calls to 900, 976, 950 and 411.
- ☐ Restrict 1+ dialing to extent possible.
- □ Change passwords frequently.
- □ Delete/change all default passwords.
- □ Restrict after-hours calling capability: DISA, International, Caribbean and Toll calls.
- ☐ Analyze call detail activity daily (use SMDRs).
- ☐ Consider allowing only attendant-assisted international calling.
- ☐ Employ class-of-service screening to areas to which there is no business need to call.

- ☐ Restrict Toll Free dialing from areas where there is no business requirement.
- ☐ Frequently audit and change all active codes.
- Deactivate unassigned voice mailboxes and DISA codes.
- □ Do not allow phone lines to be "forwarded" to off-premises numbers.
- Make sure that system administration and maintenance port phone numbers are randomly selected, unlisted and that they deviate from normal sequence of other business numbers.
- ☐ Use random generation and maximum length for authorization codes.
- ☐ Deactivate all unassigned authorization codes.
- ☐ Use multiple levels of security on maintenance ports (if available).
- Do not allow generic or group authorization codes.
- ☐ Ensure that "Night Bell" or attendant service does not default to dial tone when left unattended.
- ☐ Do not use "alpha" passwords that spell common words or names.
- ☐ Immediately deactivate passwords and authorization codes to known terminated employees.
- ☐ Consider implementing a *barrier code system*, i.e. an additional numeric password that adds a second level of security.
- ☐ Restrict all possible means of out-dial (through-dial) capability in your voice mail system.
- ☐ Frequently change default codes/passwords on voice mailboxes.

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